

State Senator

DONALD DEFONZO

2009
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Protecting Families, Seniors, Small Businesses and Our Communities

The budget battle dominated the headlines at the Capitol for much of the year. Thankfully we were able to pass a budget that closes the deficit while protecting Connecticut families from the recession. We cut spending by more than \$3 billion and made smart investments in our economy. As the recession ends, I will continue working to help stabilize Connecticut's economy, ensure a fair tax structure and increase employment opportunities.



Representing New Britain, Berlin and Farmington

Legislative Office Building, Room 2300
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Capitol: 860-240-0595

E-mail: DeFronzo@senatedems.ct.gov

Web: SenatorDeFronzo.cga.ct.gov

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MY PRIORITY:

**Protecting Families, Seniors,
Small Businesses and Our Communities**

The Fight for a Fair Budget

In September, the General Assembly and Governor Rell agreed on a budget for the next two years. The compromise budget includes more than \$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history. We did it by cutting costs in every agency and all parts of government.

At the same time, we were able to protect middle-class families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. Thanks to Democrats, important programs such as Dial-a-Ride, preschool education, library funding and higher education scholarships have been preserved.

We also made the tax code fairer for working families and the middle class by raising revenues from joint filers making more than \$1 million a year.

The budget isn't perfect but it will help stabilize Connecticut's economy and help families survive this difficult time.

Small Businesses: The Backbone of Connecticut's Economy

This past legislative session we took important steps to help protect small businesses and their workers from the worsening economy.

A recession is the wrong time to eliminate state support for small businesses. That's why we opposed efforts to shut down business incubators, economic assistance grants and supply-chain initiatives—all of which help businesses boost productivity and grow jobs.

Additionally, we addressed one of the largest challenges facing small businesses—the cost of health care. We passed a bill that would have given businesses access to the state health insurance pool, lowering premiums and saving employees and employers money. Unfortunately the governor vetoed this bill.